REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 10, 11, 22, 23, 34, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0204513 (Bumbulis). Claims 9, 21, and 33 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 11, 22, 23, 34, and 35 for being indefinite. Applicants have amended the independent claims from which they depend to overcome the rejections. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Rejections of claims 1-8, 13-19, and 25-32

Claims 1-8, 13-19, and 25-32 contain features that are neither taught or suggested by the prior art of record, as indicated by independent claim 1:

> A system for index key normalization comprising a processor adapted for:
>
> (a) selecting a column of an index key;
>
> (b) generating a marker corresponding to the selected column;
>
> (c) generating a normalized column value corresponding to the selected column; and
>
> (d) appending the marker and the normalized column value pair to a previously generated marker and normalized column value pair if any.

Bumbulis purports to teach a system and method for providing a compact Patricia Tree based B-Tree index (Bumbulis, ¶ 76). Each page of the B-Tree index contains a Patricia Tree rather than a sorted array of keys (Id.). Utilization of a Patricia Tree representation that is efficient to manipulate directly and provides significant benefits over B-Trees (Id.).

Applicants respectfully submit that Bumbulis fails to teach each element of independent claim 1. First, Bumbulis fails to teach **selecting a column of an index key.** The Examiner states that Bumbulis teaches such a feature at ¶ 15. Applicants respectfully disagree. While the cited portion of Bumbulis describes indexes and index keys, it makes no mention whatsoever of selecting a column of an index key as suggested by the Examiner.

Second, Bumbulis fails to teach **generating a marker corresponding to the selected column.** The Examiner states that Bumbulis teaches such a feature at ¶ 70. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion merely describes databases and data base indexes, but makes so mention of markers or generating a marker corresponding to a selected column taught in claim 1.

Third, Bumbulis fails to teach **generating a normalized column value corresponding to the selected column.** The Examiner states that Bumbulis teaches such a feature at ¶ 21. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion describes a method for staring a normalized prefix with a key to indicate the row it comes from. This is not the same as generating a normalized column value corresponding to a selected column. There is no mention of columns, nor normalized column values anywhere in the cited portion.

Fourth, Bumbulis fails to teach **appending the marker and the normalized column value pair to a previously generated marker and normalized column value pair if any.** The Examiner states that Bumbulis teaches such a feature at ¶ 86. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion merely describes padding of a key and makes no mention of columns, let alone appending a marker and normalized column value pair to a previously generated pair.

Because Bumbulis fails to teach each and every feature of independent claim 1, it cannot possibly anticipate the claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Independent claims 13, and 25 contain similar features as independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons given for claim 1 above. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 13 and 25.

Dependent claims 2-8, 14-19, and 26-32 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1, 13, and 25, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above for the

independent claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 2-8, 14-19, and 26-32.

Rejections of claims 9-12, 20-24, and 33-36

Claims 9-12, 20-24, and 33-36 contain features that are neither taught or suggested by the prior art of record, as indicated by independent claim 9:

> A system for index key column unnormalization of a normalized index key comprising a processor adapted for:
>
> **determining if the type of a selected column value can be unnormalized**; and
>
> if so, determining if the selected column was truncated; and
>
> generating the unnormalized column value if the selected column was not truncated.

The cited prior art entirely fails to teach or suggest **determining if the type of a selected column value can be unnormalized,** as recited in independent claim 9. The Examiner states that Bumbulis teaches such a feature at ¶¶ 76 and 86. Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraph 76 merely describes the creating of a Patricia tree index, and makes no mention whatsoever of determining is a column value can be unnormalized.

Similarly ¶ 86 also fails to teach the claimed feature. Paragraph 86 merely describes padding of a key and makes no mention of columns, let alone determining is a column value can be unnormalized. Because Bumbulis fails to teach each and every feature of independent claim 9, it cannot possibly anticipate it. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 9.

Independent claims 20, and 33 contain similar features as independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons given for claim 9 above. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 20 and 33.

Dependent claims 10-12, 21-24, and 34-36 are all variously dependent on independent claims 9, 20, and 33, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given above for the independent claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 10-12, 21-24, and 34-36.

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